

Appl. No. 10/022,056

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim remarks with regards to 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner previously rejected claims 91-180 under 35 U.S.C §103 as being unpatentable over Wotring et al., in view of Bliss, et al. (amongst other references as discussed below). The currently amended independent claims 91, 170, 173 and 180 are believed to be novel over all of the references previously presented and are believed to be unobvious over any combination thereof. Since all other dependent claims are based on these independent claims, the dependent claims are believed to be novel and unobvious over the previous references supplied by the Examiner as well. The Examiner is directed to paragraphs [0028], [0039] and [0060] which states “the value mapping provided by the system offers an entirely new approach to handling exceptions in the source data. It allows the source data to be pre-processed, a field-at-a-time, prior to transform, rather than processed, a record-at-a-time, during transform so that all of the exception handling is dealt with initially and the actual transform can proceed without interruption regardless of the size of the record set.”

To expedite prosecution of this Application on its merits Applicant describes herein how the pending claims differ from the previous references and combinations for at least the following reasons:

Wotring et al., is directed at relation to hierarchical transformation on a record-by-record basis. Namely, Wotring et al., does not anticipate new independent claims 91, 170, 173 and 180 because Wotring et al., does not teach the element “access a first source field of said source data structure and display all existing values for said first source field and obtain transformation data associated with all existing values to allow for field-at-a-time handling of said set of source fields to eliminate run-time exceptions”. Processing of data in Wotring et al., is performed on a record-by-record basis. (Col. 4, ll 1-2, “...the import facility, effecting the transformation of relational database logical records into hierarchical database objects”. See also, Col. 10, ll. 19-26, “In accordance with step 912, it is determined whether more records exist in the compound object’s dataset. If so, the next record is processed at step 920...” In addition, Col. 11, ll. 20-22, “Once all of the records in the dataset structure have been traversed, the import process is

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complete”). Note that there is no teaching of field-at-a-time-basis processing anywhere in Wotring et al., and exceptions therefore may occur during import.

Bliss et al., is directed at transforming a known data structure into another known data structure and does not anticipate new independent claims 91, 170, 173 and 180 since there is no contemplation of “access a first source field of said source data structure and display all existing values for said first source field and obtain transformation data associated with all existing values to allow for field-at-a-time handling of said set of source fields to eliminate run-time exceptions;”, e.g., . Bliss et al., copies one predetermined source field to one predetermined destination field for the whole data structure without handling data issues across records associated with each field before copying. See Col. 4 ll. 9-13, “The system loads the data from the identified field and repeats for each of the other fields in the source data structure, typically according to the predetermined order, in order to populate the destination data structure.”

Mehr et al., is directed at managing sales information and has no transformation capabilities, and does not contemplate or claim field-at-a-time handling of source fields.

Narurkar et al., is directed at dynamically loadable device drivers based on MIME type, see Figure 9, step 324.

Kane et al., is directed at maintaining audience databases and when updating a destination database is performed record-at-a-time without field-at-a-time handling of source fields, see Col. 13, ll. 1-6, “Processing may then continue with the next source database record. C. After all records in the source database have been processed...”.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner differs in this conclusion, the Examiner is hereby requested to contact Applicant’s representative for purposes of a telephone interview at the number listed below before any action (other than an allowance) is initiated.